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land, full of meteorological, medical and even botanical information, which may be recommended to those who wish to inform themselves concerning the climate of Portugal. The health resorts are grouped as (1) climatic, (2) mineral water, and (3) sea-bathing, and only those are described which are, or can be made, useful to foreigners. R. DEC. WARD.

Russia and the World. A study of the war and a statement of the world-problems that now confront Russia and Great Britain. By Stephen Graham. xi and 305 pp. Ills. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1915. \$2. 8 x 5½.

Russia in war time, as seen by an English writer, who had tramped from the shores of the Black Sea to the borders of Mongolia. The writer is the sympathetic friend of Russia and things Russian. He describes the war as immensely popular among the Russian people; their war spirit, as religious enthusiasm, which immolates itself, seeking death without fear, and waging war as the remorseless, avenging angels of their God. The Russian people are depicted as kindly and tender to their captured enemies. The effect of the war is said to have been the unification of the various peoples and nationalities living under Russian rule. The future of the Poles and Jews, as well as that of the different combatants in the struggle, after the war is over, is forecast, but such predictions are at best only tentative and very far removed from what will actually result. Interesting pen portraits of the Czar and his Prime Minister, the latter based upon a personal interview, are worthy of note.

Die Schwarzerde (Tschernosiom). Von P. Kossowitsch. viii and 156 pp. Ills. Verlag für Fachliteratur, Berlin, 1912. 10 x 7.

An account of the nature, distribution, climate and origin of the Black Earth belt of south-central Russia, though we are told that chernozem also forms a strip across central Nebraska, Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas, and is found in much of the Argentine Pampa, and in southern India. It appears to be a residual soil, occurring on a great variety of bed rock, into which it grades downward, granites, sandstones, and limestones. Usually, unbleached carbonates abound below. The climate is always semi-arid and the humus a meter or more deep. Kossowitsch believes it came of the accumulation of the remains of abundant grasses growing in a continental climate with short spring rains, and dried and preserved through long, hot, dry summers, in which the vegetable matter did not decay. A characteristic is the vertical splitting familiar to all observers of *barranca* countries. MARK JEFFERSON.

Greece of the Hellenes. By L. M. J. Garnett. 246 pp. Ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1914. \$1.50. 7½ x 5½.

The possible influence of an environment is found in the attractive statement: "So great is the demand for books of a serious character that Greek publishers find it more profitable to produce historical and scientific works than even popular fiction." This volume is replete with live statements that hold one's interest. Essentially every phase of life in Greece is presented down to date. Government, education, religion, natural resources, commerce, urban and rural life, customs and character are all described.

It is stated that of the 33 varieties of olives 30 are cultivated in Greece. The annual export of olive oil amounts to over \$2,500,000. For a well-balanced treatise on Greece and the Greeks, this book recommends itself very highly. The frequent illustrations are all good. EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

The Balkans: A Laboratory of History. By William M. Sloane. viii and 322 pp. Maps, index. Eaton & Mains, New York, 1914. \$1.50. 8½ x 5½.

After a consideration of Turkey and European politics, Mr. Sloane gives an account of the Balkan nations, their history, political, social, and religious problems, and the causes, progress, and results of their recent wars. "Physical geography," he says, "determines to a high degree the social structure of the inhabitants. Nowhere is the relation between man and his habitat

closer; nowhere are politics more sternly conditioned by natural resources and climate." Three maps show the boundaries before the war, boundaries agreed upon by Bulgaria and Servia in secret treaty, and boundaries finally adopted. An excellent book.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

The Balkan Wars, 1912-1913. By Jacob G. Schurman. 140 pp. Map, index. Princeton Univ. Press, Princeton, 1914. \$1. 8 x 5½.

The author gives the history of the Turkish Empire in Europe, and of the earlier Slav empires. He tells how Servia, Greece, Bulgaria, etc., obtained their independence. He takes up the causes of the war between Turkey and the Balkan States in 1912, the Cretan question, and shows the diplomatic moves made by the nations involved. The military operations are described, and the terms of peace considered. The war between the Allies, filling the last half of the book, discusses the causes of the war, military operations, the part Rumania played, the problem of Albania, and the final distribution of territory. Maps show the Balkan Peninsula before and after the wars.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

Servia of the Servians. By Chedo Mijatovich. New edit. ix and 234 pp. Ills., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1913. \$1.50. 7½ x 5½.

The author, formerly Servian Minister at the Court of St. James, says that what he wishes to do in this book is to supply his readers "with the material which eventually will enable them to have a glimpse into the soul of the Servian people, and form their own judgment on its character and ability." He treats of Servian history, politics, religion, and customs, introduces typical Servian anecdotes, national songs, popular music, and proverbs, writes of Servian literature, tells of the economic resources, and gives specimens of Servian folk-lore and statistical data. The book is well illustrated, interesting and thorough.

WILBUR GREELEY BURROUGHS.

La Turquie que l'on voit. Par L. de Launay. 2e édit. Collection des Voyages Illustrés. 270 pp. Maps, ill. Hachette & Cie., Paris, 1914. Fr. 4. 7½ x 5.

The book is a model of cleverly recorded, intelligent observation. It is the product of two trips undertaken at twenty years' interval. Its text is as ripe in thought as the subjects described are mellow with age. It is devoid of distinctive features yet every page appeals forcibly to the reader.

LEON DOMINIAN.

Island: Das Land und das Volk. Von Paul Herrmann. (Aus Natur und Geisteswelt.) 113 pp. Ills. B. G. Teubner, Leipzig, 1914.

The modest volume embraces an encyclopædic yet very readable account of the land and people of Iceland. The author has drawn upon his travels as well as upon much statistical material. Geographical factors are stressed.

The brief caption "Land" includes a good geomorphological summary. More attention is given to the people, their history, character, economic conditions, and material and spiritual culture. The struggle against a severe environment, the sufferings inflicted by catastrophes of ice and fire have moulded a complex and contradictory national character. On the one hand, the Icelander is courageous, self-reliant to stubbornness, democratic, and tenacious of word and friendship. On the other side, the author discovers an all-pervading pessimism, a tendency to theorize rather than to do, and a lack of energy and of perseverance, which he refers to the unfriendly nature that has so often set at naught the works of man. The unparalleled catastrophes of the eighteenth century turned the minds of the people from their bitter present to the glorious past. The whole nation withdrew to the quiet of intellectual life, and found release in a wonderful literary activity.

Agriculture is described as being in need of regeneration. Sheep-raising and gardening alone have made appreciable progress. In some ways farm conditions are less good than they were a thousand years ago. More labor,